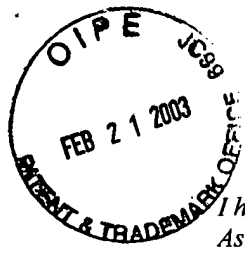


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service  
As first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.  
20231 on February 12, 2003.

*Nancy C. McElroth*  
Signature

Applicant : Bin Zhao  
Application No. : 09/891,795  
Filed : 06/25/2001  
Title : APPARATUS FOR CHANNEL INTERLEAVING IN COMMUNICATIONS

Grp./Div. : 2872  
Examiner : Craig Curtis  
Client Matter : CIR1.PAU.04

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FEB 27 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800  
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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

NEW ADDRESS: Myers, Dawes & Andras  
19900 MacArthur Blvd.  
Ste. 1150  
Irvine, CA 92612

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 12, 2002, please amend the above identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-23 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 24-49 as follows:

24. (new) An interleaver comprising:  
a birefringent element assembly comprising at least one spatial birefringent element, the birefringent element assembly providing two output components;

02/25/2003 CNGUYEN 00000106 09891795

01 FC:2202 18.00 OP

02/25/2003 CNGUYEN 00000106 09891795

02 FC:2252 205.00 OP

*Sub A/B*